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Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission

March 2008

Region F RHSOC Recommends Funds for Homeland Security Grants

The Region F Homeland Security Oversight Committee recommended 4 grant activities with a funding allocation totaling \$652,285, at their February 6, 2008, meeting. The RHSOC received a total of 8 grant requests requesting more than \$1,048,000. Grant activities approved included updating base radios for P-25 compliance for 911 response centers, funds for training and conducting seminars for animal/agriculture emergency planning, continuation of the mass shelter and volunteer donations and training program, and purchasing radios for health departments located in Region F.

One of the main functions of the group has been to allocate grant dollars for homeland security needs within Region F. This is the second year that the Region F

RHSOC has recommended projects to be funded. In the past, SEMA selected projects. Now the oversight committee announces the grant funding opportunity and receives requests from the 15 disciplines represented on the oversight committee. The committee has developed a ranking criteria matrix to evaluate the requests. The ranking matrix includes scoring the proposal for being regional in nature, reducing duplication of equipment and resources, that the proposal addresses long-term maintenance, and the activity represents a regional investment value. These proposed activities are then forward to SEMA to ensure compliance with state guidelines or investment justifications.

In 2007, the group allocated

\$1,197,000 after receiving requests exceeding \$2.6 million. The amount of funding allocated to each region is determined by SEMA based on several factors, including federal funding, region population and risk and vulnerability factors. Activities funded the first year included: a region-wide communications interoperability plan, a region-wide radio cache, conducting a regional training exercise, business emergency planning continuity, satellite communications for each county, and mass care sheltering and donations and volunteer training.

Under the partnership with SEMA, the Mid Missouri Regional Planning Commission handles all purchases on behalf of the grant recipients.

Discipline	Grant Activity	Funding Amount
911	P25 compliant radios to comply with narrow banding requirement that must be met by December 31, 2012	\$472,216.45
Agriculture	Training and Sustainment of funds for conducting Animal Agriculture Emergency Planning and Response Meetings and/or Volunteer Veterinary Corps credentialing qualifications training.	\$25,000.00
Volunteer	Continuation of Mass Care Coordinator Position from FY06 grant allocations, with specific focus on special needs and pet sheltering and including a training exercise for special needs.	\$77,000.00
Health Department	3 handheld radios for each Region F Local Public Health Agency	\$58,500.00

Planning Tools Aid in Land Use Decisions

The Mid-Mo RPC is currently applying dynamic planning tools to assist the City of Ashland with their comprehensive plan. This help comes from the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software and the development of a Visual Preference Survey.

GIS is a very useful tool when it comes to land-use decision making. The GIS allows the ability to use or create many different spatial layer files, such as current zoning, current land use, parcels, roads, and boundaries, that can be overlaid or removed very easily

with the click of a mouse. GIS also allows the creation of layers, for example, the creation of a Future Land Use file. This information is suggested based on surrounding land uses, the future road network, and environmental constraints among other things.

A Visual Preference Survey was also created for the City of Ashland. The survey contained a series of images from different categories. Some of the categories included were building type, development patterns, roads, public spaces, and pedestrian

realm. Each person ranked each image on a scale from one to ten based on how much they preferred the image. This survey was used as a tool to determine how the committee wants the future of the community to look, and so assisting in the writing of policies and goals for the comprehensive plan.

Both GIS and the Visual Preference Survey are available for anyone who would like aid in their Land-Use Planning needs. Contact Allison Johnson with the Mid-Mo RPC staff for additional information.

Calendar

March 26 - Mid-MO RPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and RPC Commission membership meetings. TAC begins at 4:30 pm, with a review of transportation issues in the region and a presentation of MoDOT's *Blueprint for Roadway Safety*. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, followed by the commission meeting. The meeting will include a presentation on USDA Rural Development's programs, and an overview of the Interoperability Communication Study underway for the Area F RHSOC.

Legislation Update

Introduction of Funding Proposal for I-70 and I-44. On Feb. 27 and Feb. 28, SB 1217 and SJR 48, respectively, sponsored by Senate Transportation Committee Chair, Sen. Bill Stouffer (R-Napton), were introduced to the Senate. The proposals would allow for a one percent sale and use tax increase for the purpose of converting Interstate 70 and Interstate 44 into an eight-lane interstate system. The bills now wait to be assigned to a Senate committee for public testimony.

Missouri County Planning Act. House Bill (N0.1832) sponsored by Shannon Cooper (R-Clinton). Establishes the Missouri County Planning Act- voted to pass from

committee on House-Local Government.

Sunshine Law. HB 1663/Young. The proposed legislation changes the standard for violation of the Open Meetings Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law, by a governmental body from knowingly to negligently. The bill has been read second time.

GIS Systems. SB1260/Bartle. This act requires a community that establishes and licenses a geographical information system to, upon request, provide information regarding the costs to the community of time, equipment and personnel in the production of the information in the system, the costs to the community of the

creation, purchase and acquisition of the information in the system, and any ongoing costs for maintaining the system and the nature of those costs. Read first time 02/28/2008.

Privatizing Service. HB1732/Walsh. Establishes the Public Service Accountability Act which requires most public bodies to analyze the costs and benefits of privatizing any service valued at \$25,000 or more. Read second time.

Planning and Zoning Regulations. HB 1453/ Roorda. Allows any county to retroactively apply planning and zoning regulations to certain subdivisions of land.

Conferences and Events

Missouri Economic Development Council Winter Conference March 4-5

The Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDC) Winter Conference is scheduled March 4-5 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. MEDC is a state-wide, not-for-profit association of economic development professionals and community leaders. Created in 1979 to provide a unified voice for economic development, MEDC offers its members programs in professional education, legislation and marketing. For additional conference information check the MEDC website at www.showme.org or call 573.636.7383.

The 2008 Annual Missouri Community Development Conference. March 17-18, 2008. *"Important Housing Dialogues: Trends, Techniques and Things You Should Know"* Sheraton Kansas City Sports Complex- Hotel Kansas City, Missouri. Contact Jennifer Presberry, Treasurer, Missouri Community Development Society, 816.454.2000, Email: Jennifer_presberry@nni.org.

Grants Offered for High Energy Cost Communities. Nonprofits, for-profits, state and local governments, and tribes can apply by March 28 for competitive grants to improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities for communities with high

residential home energy costs. See Federal Register, 1/28/08, pp. 4778-90 or www.usda.gov/rus/electric. Contact Karen Larsen, RD, 202-720-9545, energy.grants@wdc.usda.gov.

April 16 - How to Develop Sustainable Retail in Small Communities. The Mid Missouri Economic Development Advisory Committee is sponsoring a forum that will discuss attracting retail development to communities, in particular, smaller communities. The event will be held at Courtyard Marriott in Columbia. Contact Colleen Vollman with the MMRPC staff for additional information.

Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission

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